



Macrophyllum

OCTOBER 2009

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
Post Office Box 1701
Florence, OR 97439-0111

WEBSITE: <http://www.siuslawars.org>

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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Small Plant Auction... bring your money!

Chapter Meeting – Tuesday, October 20 at 6:45 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, 3996 Hwy 101 N in Florence. Pre-meeting dinner will be held at Bridgewater Restaurant at 5pm. It's becoming one of our most popular restaurants. Don't miss out! Let Rosemary know if you plan to attend dinner. Contact Rosemary Rebello (**before 12 noon on October 16**) for reservations (541) 997-6167 or tonyrosemmary@charter.net

Gallagher Park Work Party – Wednesday October 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram- City Park Commissioner. flowerman@q.com

Cookie Team-Sandy Jensen, Sylvia Smith, Jean Gottschalk, Connie Rosenbalm

OCTOBER IS...

PLANT A RHODY MONTH- this is the perfect time to plant a rhododendron in your garden. You can also find rhody starts of species or hybrids you always wanted... see article on page 3 of this newsletter.

The White Rhododendron

"You ask me who I am? I? I am the chieftain's daughter; my name is Oreawna. You ask me where my home is? My home! There! On that mountain where the sunlight lingers; there! Where the river meets the sea; There! Far, far in the distance where the earth meets the sky. Here! On this ground! Wherever my foot treads, wherever a bird sings for me, wherever a flower blooms for my eye, there is my home.

"Years, years my fathers lived here. That orb of light, that beams for you, shone for them. For them the ocean sang, for them the starlight gleamed in the beauty of the midnight sky --- for them bloomed on these hills the flower you have named the Rhododendron.

"The Great Father had said 'Be there sunshine, be there flowers to gladden the hearts of my children!' And then the beautiful blossoms came --- symbols of the Father's love for his children, and every flower was white to signify the purity of his children's hearts.

"Years, years went by. Many a cloud came, many a storm, --- many a wicked hand! Many a flower was crushed, its purity was soiled and its color changed. But search! And you shall yet find a White Rhododendron."

Note: this poem was given as an oration at the Rhododendron Festival in Florence in 1909 by a little Indian girl named Katherine Reed. It is especially for her by her teacher, Laura Dahlin. Katherine attended grade school in Florence, finishing at Chemawa Indian school. She entered a training hospital and became a graduate nurse. She finally became head nurse at Tohatchi hospital, Window Rock, Arizona, from which position she resigned in June, 1944.

Editor's comments- I've been deep in genealogy research lately and came upon this beautiful poem in a copy of the 1947 Siuslaw Pioneer Booklet... See page two of this newsletter to view a photo of the white R. Macrophyllum bloom.

R. Macrophyllum

Some of our new members may not have had the chance to visit our chapter website (built and maintained by computer guru, Paul Wilson) to learn about the Macrophyllum Project. Paul has included interesting information about our coastal species, so please visit using this link directly to the page of the website about the project.

www.siuslawars.org/MacProject/macproject.html

This photo (R. macrophyllum 'Barto White' by Hank Helm)



OCTOBER...

I present to you Rhododendron Occidentale. (photo below) I suppose I could have picked a more colorful species bloom for this month of fall color, but since this newsletter started with the white Macrophyllum above, it only seemed right to celebrate WHITE!

This lovely species' predominate flower color is white and also pink. The truss is a broadly funnel-shaped, white, white flushed pink, or pale pink, often with a yellow blotch and is fragrant to boot. The bloom time is late midseason to late. Height in 10 years is five feet. The leaves are usually oblanceolate, sometimes linear or orbicular, and deciduous. The plant habit is shrub or small tree. Geographical origin is Western North America (California to Southern Washington).

This information comes directly from the National ARS website plant description section. ↓

Do You Have These?

Cheryl Prchal asks: "A few years ago, the chapter ordered plant stakes. Does anyone have some leftover they don't want any more? I need the "legs" more than the label area.

The plant stakes come in two parts...the label area which goes on the "legs" and the legs go into the soil. I don't know how to describe it any differently. If anyone still has some of these plant stakes, they can always call me."

Cheryl- 902-7637
rhodyholic@msn.com

Rhododendron occidentale



Photo by Don Kohlenberger

10-10-10

The chapter is beginning to plan for the ARS Western Regional Conference in 2010, to be held in Florence, Oregon. We will be the host chapter. The dates for the conference will be October 8-10 and will be held at the Three Rivers Casino and Hotel in their conference facilities. Chapter webmaster, Paul Wilson, is creating a unique website expressly for the conference where you will be able to learn about the speakers, their topics of discussion, registration, and much more.

Through this chapter newsletter, we will keep you informed of progress in plans for the conference and notify you when the registration begins so that you can register as early as possible for this event. Periodically chapter publicity chair, Judy Johnson, will be submitting articles to the local news media advertising the event.

As the organization group forges ahead on this major project, you may receive a call from a member you know that can use your help/expertise/creative ability/brute strength/etc.! We hope you will jump in with vigor and excitement to assist the chapter in making this conference a huge success.

Gallagher Park in September

The September meeting was not a meeting this year but a lovely couple of hours spent in a grove of Rhododendrons called "Gallagher's Park." Those who attended had a tour of the small park, learned how to take cuttings of azaleas, what park maintenance is needed during the year and how our chapter shares responsibility with the Florence Garden Club to maintain this tranquil spot that greets visitors to Florence at the corner of Hwy 126 and Spruce Streets. Have a visit sometime!

Do You Have This Plant??

With the downturn in the economy there is a concern that many Rhododendron species and hybrids may not be as available as they once were. The chapter would like to encourage the continuation of as many types of Rhododendrons and Azaleas as possible through this spot in the newsletter.

If you would like to find a particular species or hybrid and have a starter **or** share your plants with someone else, then all you have to do is email the editor, Merilee, with your request and it will be put into the newsletter. We are encouraging members to be a part of the future of Rhododendrons.

gmmulvey@oregonfast.net

FALL IS HERE...

It's time to do fall garden maintenance before our mild winter sets in here in Florence. Mike Bones tells me that we can do one more fertilizing of Rhododendrons and Azaleas by the end of October and then we will let the plants rest through the winter until next February.

I found some great articles online, through the ARS national website, that you will enjoy reading. They range from beginner information to great articles for the hybridizers and experts in our chapter! Just click on this link to read and learn.

<http://www.rhododendron.org/articles.htm>



Can you identify this Vireya? ↑

Answer on Page 4...

Chapter Contacts

Editor's Corner:

Occasionally, it is helpful to go back to your roots to gain perspective on the here and now. Doing that gives you a better sense of how fleeting the bounty of our surroundings is and how important it is to treasure and protect history and nature.

These thoughts ran through my mind as I read several copies of the Siuslaw Pioneer Booklet, a historical periodical once published in Florence. I found several articles which I will share with you this year as we enjoy life on the coast and plan for the 2010 regional conference. The most powerful was the article about Katherine Reed, a Native American; very special and ironic that our regional conference will be held at the Three Rivers Casino.

How do we want to present ourselves to the visitors who will come to our beautiful city to appreciate the Rhododendron and learn about its habits from many great speakers who will give presentations? You can help the chapter put on a wonderful conference that people will remember for years to come.

10-10-10... that is the date to remember; put it on your calendar and take part in the plans to make this celebration special in Florence...

Rhododendron orbiculatum Section Euvireya: Subsection Euvireya
Height - 4m - usually epiphytic Leaves - broadly ovate - 6.5 x 6cm
Flowers - tubular with large lobes - 8cm - up to 6 per umbel - sometimes scented
Location - Malaysia: Sabah & Sarawak; Brunei; Indonesia: Kalimantan, Sulawesi - 800-1800m Epithet - "rounded", alluding to leaf shape

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Siuslaw Chapter ARS Mission Statement

The Mission of the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is to promote the genus Rhododendron by:

- Creating enthusiasm for the genus Rhododendron through meetings, shows, publications, and social activities that provide the opportunities for members to share experiences and build friendships.
- Providing educational opportunities to successfully grow and enjoy these wonderful plants.
- Encouraging propagation and hybridizing of species and hybrid rhododendrons.
- Furthering the planting and use of rhododendrons and azaleas in home, business, and public landscapes.
- Advocating the conservation and preservation of superior plants of our native Rhododendrons and their habitat along the Oregon Coast.
- Advancing and supporting the mission of the American Rhododendron Society.